

# Purpose and Purpose-built: Considering Multi-purposality in Developing a Linked Historical Gazetteer of London

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English Renaissance Theatre is generally dated between 1576-1642: circumscribed by the construction of the Theatre in 1576 and the closing of the public playhouses by Act of Parliament in 1642. 'Found' London performance locations in taverns, churches, legal and professional buildings, aristocratic houses, not to mention the streets and waterways in the city - suggest amateurish or provincial performance styles that are somehow less important without those purpose-built theatres. The REED London project, which includes records from the Inns of Court, letters, eye-witness accounts, masque texts, and modern day essays, re-avers that audiences expected to witness professional entertainments in interior and exterior spaces throughout the city, and that these spaces were appropriated for performance at the same time that they were in use for their defined purposes: The Bell Inn Yard on Gracious Street, Merchant Taylors' Hall in Cornhill, Temple Bar, the Tiltyard at Whitehall, even the Thames itself were all regularly used for performances but are not so well known for this as for their more primary functions.

## Records of Early English Drama London has:

- 116 place entities with unique URLs from around London
- All "sameAs" to Geonames or Wikidata
- Derived from the Index of the print REED collection
- Only 7 of these were **Purpose Built** theatres (ex. Globe Theatre)

## We are now:

Moving beyond the index and finding places that need to be accounted for, such as: **St. Dunstan's Tavern**, with an editor's note that reads "was located at the western end of Fleet Street (now No. 1), opposite the entrance to Middle Temple Lane".

## We want to:

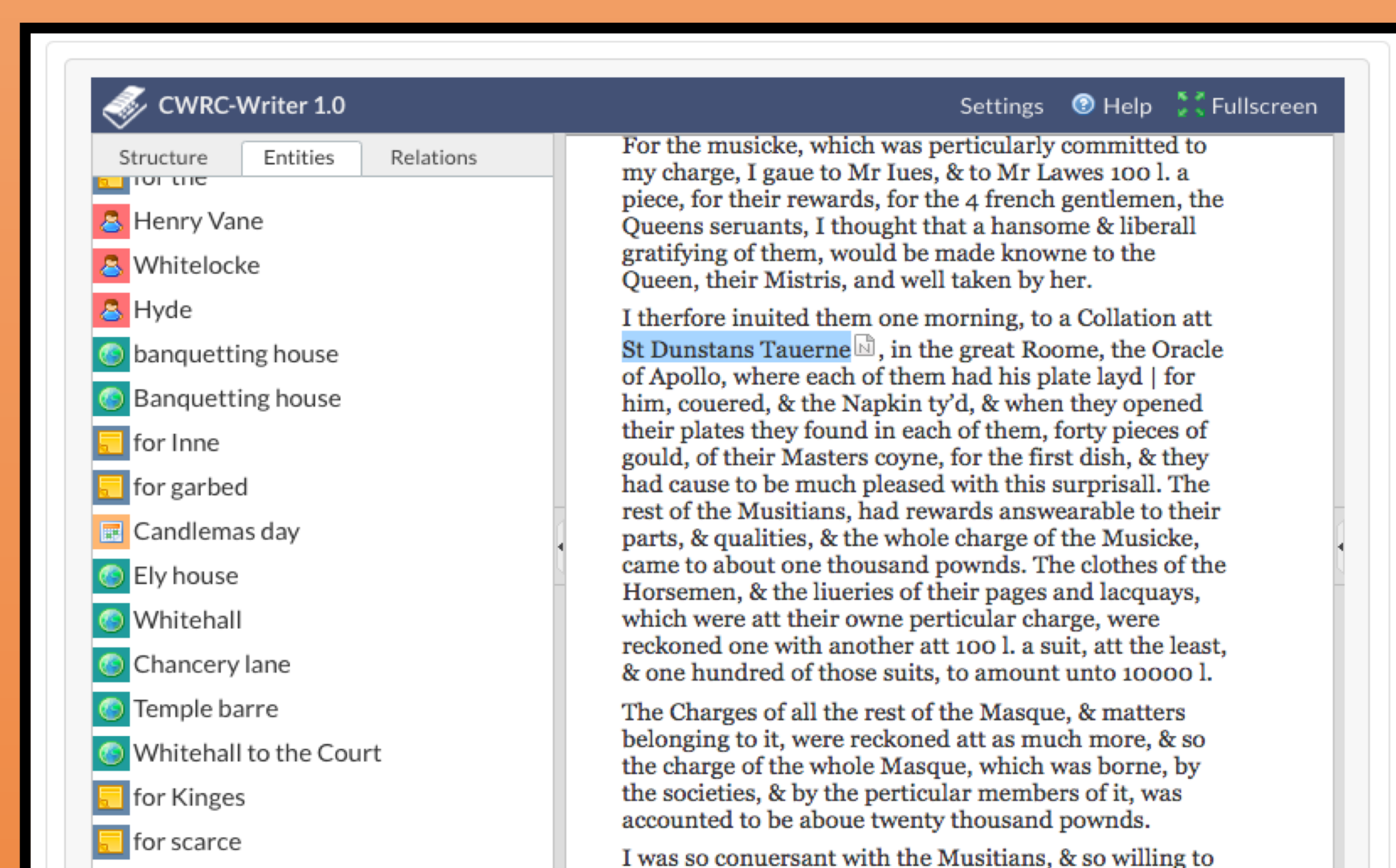
Include spatial multi-purposality (in our case, for performance) in a gazetteer

Link places temporally/linearly in order to re-tell a piece of history (ie., a series of events surrounding a Masque entertainment)

About Allholantide, several of the principal members of the Societies of the four Inns of Court... had a design that they should present their service to the King and Queen and testify their affections to them, by the outward and splendid visible testimony, of a Royal Masque...



```
"names": [
  {
    "toponym": "St Dunstons Tavern",
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    },
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        "value": "...I therefore invited them one morning, to a Collation att St Dunstans Tauerne, in the great Roome, the Oracle of Apollo, ...",
        "lang": "en"
      }
    ]
  }
]
```



However, we are still left with our second question: how do we link these places together to tell a story?

The **Linked Places** format allows us to connect our understanding of a place in the past to the way that others understand it, & to put these REED entities 'on the map'.

**CWRC-Writer** allows us to create entities with unique URLs while we are marking up our texts. We can connect places to our existing entities, or create them anew.

Connecting these two projects by including a reference to our CWRC project in the descriptions of our locations in the Linked Pasts 'description' id means that people could see how it's described in REED, and what other places/spaces we relate it to.

**Potentially making its many purposes discoverable .**

Our example text: A passage from **Bulstrode Whitelocke's Annals**, detailing the events that he oversaw, as a member of the Middle Temple, leading up to and following *The Triumph of Peace*, a significant masque performed by the members of the Inns of Court for King James I and Queen Anne of Denmark.

